

S. L.
A
pam

115
115

AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

Plans for the organization of an American Bibliographical Society have been discussed during the last years at several meetings of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago: first at an informal meeting of resident and non-resident members held at Waukesha, Wis., in July, 1900, in connection with the American Library Association, then at a meeting called for the special purpose of discussing such plans, at Magnolia, Mass., in July, 1902, and at a similar meeting at Niagara Falls, N. Y., in June, 1903, the two latter meetings being largely attended by members of the American Library Association. At the Magnolia meeting a committee was appointed to take definite steps toward the formation of an American Bibliographical Society. This committee reported at the Niagara Falls meeting as follows:

"The committee recommends that in the formation of a national bibliographical society (which might be called the American Bibliographical Association) the Chicago society should invite widely the co-operation of book collectors and scholars generally, besides librarians, in order to give the new society a more representative character at the start. It is the opinion of the committee that this plan would gain more members than if the present society should change its name of its own volition to the more comprehensive one.

"This committee suggests that in order to give the new society a vigorous start the Chicago society should have some definite publications in hand to propose as the first issues of the new society. It is recommended also that the organization of the new society be left in the hands of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Lane, Chairman.

Wilberforce Eames."

Following out the recommendations of this committee which were endorsed by several speakers and were accepted as the sense of the meeting, the Bibliographical Society of Chicago hereby extends an invitation to bibliographers, librarians, scholars, book collectors and booklovers generally to join with it in the formation of an American Bibliographical Society.

That the time is ripe for such action is clear to everyone who has followed the bibliographical movements during the last decade. The discussion in this country which followed the establishment of the Institut international de bibliographie and the publication of the plans for the International catalogue of scientific literature has shown how serious is the interest in bibliography among scientific men as well as among bibliographers and librarians, and signs are not wanting that indicate a growing interest in scientific bibliography among book collectors and bookmen. But bibliography has not yet attained to the position which it ought to occupy in the intellectual life of the nation, owing largely to the lack of a central body which could unite the hitherto scattered and unorganized forces and work consciously and systematically for the extension of bibliographical activity and for the promotion of bibliographical research. To provide such a body should be the chief purpose of the American Bibliographical Society. It should offer at its meetings opportunity for the discussion of bibliographical plans and problems, and in its publications, works of scholarly character especially in American bibliography, but without neglecting other branches of the subject; it should collect and make known information about bibliographical undertakings in progress or in preparation in this and other countries; it should try to arouse the interest of book collectors in scholarly research, and endeavor to persuade them to make their treasures available to the student and scientific worker and thus to take active part in the promotion of learning; it should finally have for its chief object the establishment of an Institute for bibliographical research where large national undertakings could be planned and executed, and which could represent this country in an efficient way in such international undertakings as are sure to be proposed in a more and more increasing degree.

The possibility of an international bibliographical congress at St. Louis in connection with the World's Fair makes the present time especially propitious for the formation of a society representative of American bibliography.

With the object of presenting a concrete proposition the council of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago has prepared the appended draft of a constitution. It will also be ready to propose to the council of the new society some material for publication. As a general proposition it is suggested that while means for the publication of a

010.6
BSSP

quarterly journal might be found after the society has been permanently established for some length of time, it would be practicable from the start to issue a Yearbook and a series of monographs similar to the publications of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago, with extension of the plan so as to include works of interest to the scholarly book collector.

The Bibliographical Society of Chicago invites all to whom this call is addressed to active participation in the formation of an American Bibliographical Society, and hopes for early and favorable response. The 1st of February, 1904, has been fixed as the final day for the return of the enclosed blank. Immediately after that date the council of the society will provide for the election of an organization committee of five members by means of votes, taken by mail, of all those who up to that date have signified their intention to join the American Bibliographical Society, provided their number seems to warrant action. Each ballot will be accompanied by a list of bona fide members. The committee so elected, it is proposed, shall take immediate charge of the affairs of the new society and arrange for an organization meeting in connection with the scientific congresses at St. Louis in the fall of 1904.

Prospective members are requested to fill out the enclosed form and forward the same to the secretary of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago, not later than February 1st, 1904.

THE COUNCIL OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL
SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

AKSEL G. S. JOSEPHSON, President
JAMES W. THOMPSON, Vice-President
CHARLES H. BROWN, Secretary
CARL B. RODEN, Treasurer
FREDERICK H. HILD
CAMILLO VON KLENZE
AZARIAH S. ROOT

Secretary's Address:

The John Crerar Library,

CHICAGO, December, 1903.

Chicago, Ill.



3 0112 072649921

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

1. The name of this society shall be the AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

2. The object of the society shall be to promote bibliographical study and research.

3. The officers of the society shall be a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and a recorder and curator. The affairs of the society, including the election of members, the adoption of by-laws, the calling of meetings, and the selection of works to be printed, shall be in the hands of a council, consisting of the officers, the last ex-president, and four councilors. The president, ex-president, secretary, and treasurer shall constitute the executive board of the council. The officers shall be elected annually and serve until the election of their successors. Of the councilors two shall be elected every two years, to serve two years. Any vacancy occurring during the year shall be filled by the council. But in case of vacancy in the presidency the council shall elect one of the vice-presidents as president. Standing committees, and special committees not otherwise provided for, shall be appointed by the president.

4. Any person approved by the council may become a member of the society on payment of three dollars, which shall take the place of the membership fee for the first year. The annual fee shall be two dollars, payable April 1st. Any member who shall pay to the society, in one sum, fifty dollars, shall be a life member and exempt from further dues. A member whose fees have been in arrears for more than one year shall be dropped from the society, but may be restored by the council on payment of all back dues.

5. On the unanimous recommendation of the council the society may elect honorary members, who shall be exempt from all fees. The number of such members shall never exceed ten. A member who has rendered distinguished service to bibliography or to the society may, on the proposal of a member at an annual meeting, be elected a fellow of the society.

6. All fees of life members, together with such other sums as may be given for the purpose, shall be set aside as a publication fund, not to be used for the ordinary expenses of the society.

7. Branch societies may be formed in any place where ten or more members reside, by the election of a local secretary and by notifying the national secretary of the action taken.

8. Amendments to this constitution may be voted on at an annual meeting, if notice has been given at a previous annual meeting, or if the amendment has received the unanimous approval of the council.